

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 and 25-40 were pending. Claims 1, 3-9, 12-15, 18-23, and 25-40 were rejected. Claims 2, 10, 11, 16, and 17 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. Claims 18-25, 39, and 40 were previously cancelled.

Amendment to the Specification

The previously-submitted Petition to Accept Unintentionally Delay of Priority Claim under 37 CFR § 1.55 was dismissed. Accordingly, the present application does not claim priority from the patent applications listed in the previously-submitted amendment to add Cross-Reference to Related Applications; and the previously submitted cross-reference is deleted in an amendment to the specification submitted herein.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 is amended herein to incorporate the limitations of claim 2, previously indicated allowable by the Examiner, and claim 2 is cancelled. Claim 7 is amended herein to incorporate the limitations of claim 10, previously indicated allowable by the Examiner, and claim 10 is cancelled. Claim 11 is amended herein to put it into independent form. Claim 12 is amended herein to incorporate the limitations of claim 16, previously indicated allowable by the Examiner, and claim 16 is cancelled. Claim 17 is amended to depend from claim 12 rather than claim 16. Claims 18-40 are now cancelled.

Previously rejected independent claims 1, 7, and 12 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2, 10, and 16, respectively, each of which was previously indicated allowable. Previously objected-to claim 11 has been rewritten to put it into independent form. Claims 3-6 depend from allowable claim 1 and are therefore allowable. Claims 8-9 depend from allowable claim 7 and are therefore allowable. Claims 13-15 and 17 depend from allowable claim 12

and are therefore allowable. All remaining rejected claims are cancelled.

The Applicants' agent respectfully asserts that all previously rejected claims have either been amended to incorporate subject matter indicated allowable by the Examiner or depend from such amended claims. Objected-to claim 11 has been rewritten to put it into independent form. Accordingly, all claims remaining in the application contain subject matter that has previously been ruled allowable by the Examiner. The Applicants' agent respectfully requests that the Examiner issue an allowance for claims 1, 3-9, 11-15, and 17. Should any additional fees be required, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would be helpful, he is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' agent at (425) 455-5575.

DATED this 13th day of December 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

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